



Waltus L. Watkins first settled on the land now encompassed by the Watkins Mill Historic Site in the spring or summer of 1839. The old plantation and its associated buildings remained in the hands of the Watkins family for 106 years, until it was sold to new owners in 1945. It was held in private hands until 1958, when a non-profit corporation, the Watkins Mill Association, purchased the old Mill and took options on several parcels of land within the bounds of the old plantation in order to seek its preservation. After a bond issue was approved by the citizens of Clay County in 1963, over 700 acres of the original plantation were purchased and deeded to the State of Missouri. At the present time, the Watkins Mill and Plantation is administered and maintained by the Missouri State Park Board. The Watkins Mill Association, now under contract to the Park Board, continues to operate the Mill, conduct tours, and provide public interpretation of the Historic Site to visitors.

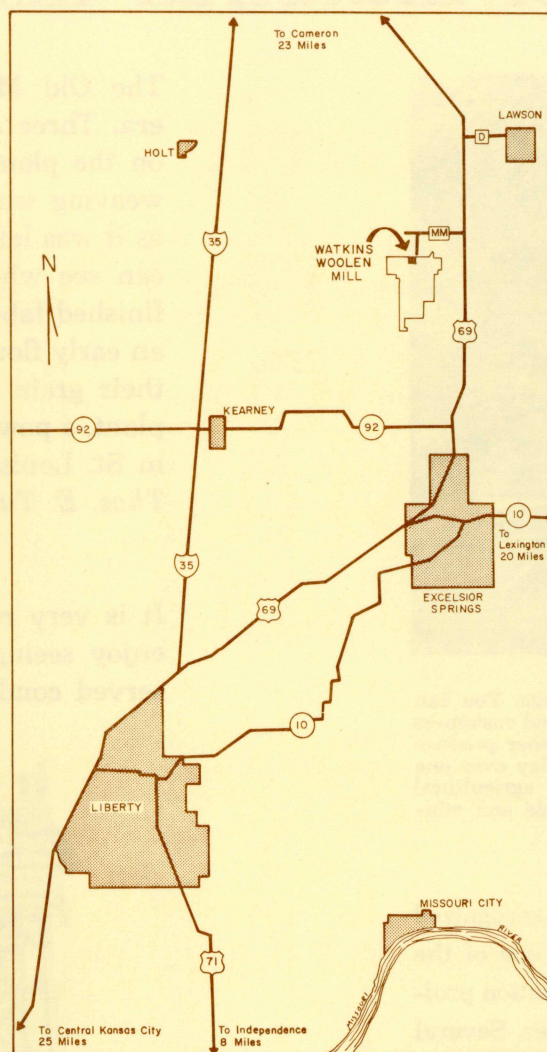
The Missouri State Park Board has set out to preserve this unique factory and plantation in its original state and today you will see it about as it appeared in the years between 1860 and 1880. All modern developments are being systematically excluded, and for this reason no automobiles are allowed inside the Historic Site. You should plan to take plenty of time and spend several hours to enjoy a walk around the pleasant footpaths that criss-cross this beautiful segment of the past. You will find comfortable walking shoes to be an asset, and in winter warm clothes are needed as the Mill is not heated.

At this time, only the Mill building and the smokehouse are open for public viewing. Other buildings, including a church, a school, and the 1850 Watkins home, are currently being restored and will be opened when they are completed. In addition, as you stroll over the grounds you will see the sites of many other structures which once stood here: the ice house, the blacksmith shop, workers cabins and so forth. As the years go by these buildings will be restored one by one until finally the entire area will be complete as a functioning plantation of the mid-19th century.

*For further information about this historic site,
write:*

**HISTORICAL ADMINISTRATOR
WATKINS WOOLEN MILL
LAWSON, MISSOURI
64062**

COME TO WATKINS MILL

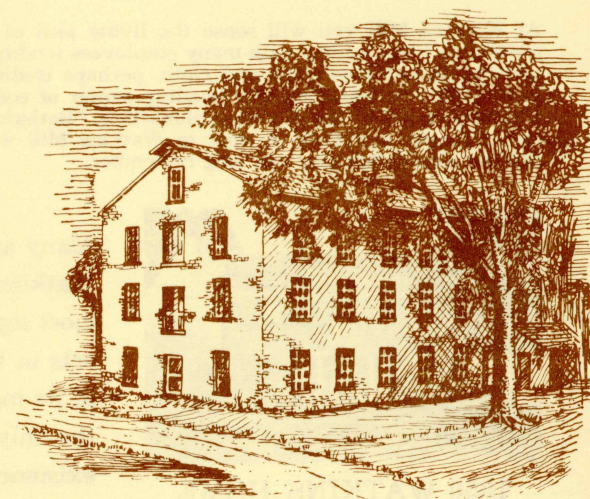


The Mill and plantation are open to the public daily except Mondays, New Year's, Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Days. The fees are: Ages 6-12, 25c—Over 12, 75c. Group tours should be scheduled in advance and special rates and arrangements are made to accommodate them. Picnic and recreation facilities are available in the adjacent state park.

SCHEDULE OF HOURS

Tuesday-Saturday ... 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.—Year 'round
Sundays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.—May 1 to Nov. 1
Sundays 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.—Nov. 1 to May 1

visit historic WATKINS WOOLEN MILL and plantation



LAWSON, MISSOURI

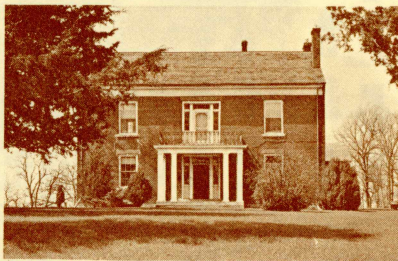
A

**MISSOURI STATE PARK BOARD
HISTORIC SITE**

a unique exhibit of industrial history—Watkins Mill

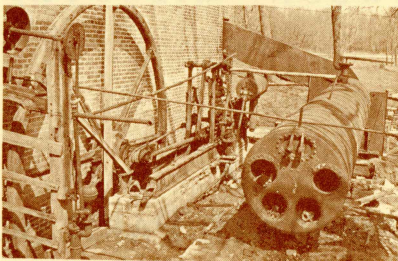


At Watkins Mill you will sense the living past of over a century ago. You can envision a busy factory with many employees tending to their duties and customers arriving to purchase yarn and cloth, perhaps trading raw wool or other produce to the Mill. Surrounding this bustling center of commercial activity lay over one thousand acres of the Watkins plantation, "Bethany", with its many agricultural and domestic activities. A visit to Watkins Mill will be an enjoyable and educational experience you will long remember.



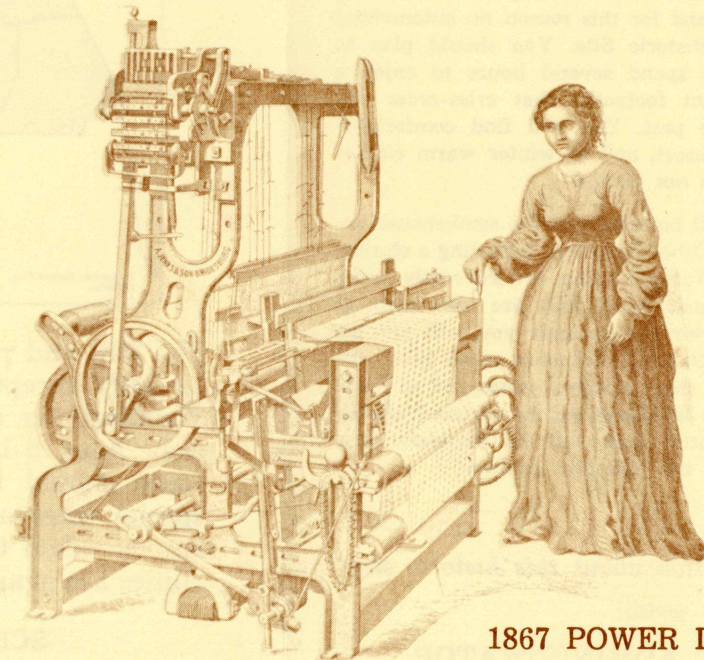
1850 WATKINS HOME

FACTORY STEAM ENGINE



The Old Mill building is a typical manufacturing plant of its era. Three and one-half stories tall, it was built of bricks made on the plantation. The principal function of the Mill was that of weaving woolen cloth. The original machinery is still intact, just as it was left when the mill closed at the turn of the century. You can see where and how the wool was processed from fleece to finished fabric over one hundred years ago. The Mill also contains an early flour and grist Mill where the neighboring people brought their grain for processing. You will also see the factory's power plant, a powerful steam engine and boiler which was manufactured in St. Louis and shipped up the Missouri River on the steamboat *Thos. E. Tutt*, in July of 1860.

It is very remarkable that so much remains intact and you will enjoy seeing this Historic Landmark as it stands in a well preserved condition.



1867 POWER LOOM